

- The Minnesota tribes “have been very active politically and are strong Democrats. We contributed heavily in the November [sic] elections and played a key role with our support for President Clinton in 1992.” McCarthy later explained that by stating that the tribes “contributed heavily,” he was suggesting that the opponent tribes make the Secretary aware of their ability to make financial contributions to the Democratic party, and to let him know that an adverse decision could jeopardize the good support the tribes historically provided the Democrats.

McCarthy acknowledged that his intention in outlining these “key political issues” was for the opponent tribes, in making their arguments to Secretary Babbitt, to make a direct link between political contributions and the Secretary’s decision. McCarthy encouraged tribal leaders at this time to emphasize to the Secretary that they were “good Democrats.”<sup>133</sup>

**b. O’Connor & Hannan Joins the Opposition**

Kitto added further resources to the Hudson opposition in early 1995 by enlisting O’Connor & Hannan, L.L.P., to make the case in Washington on behalf of the St. Croix tribe. The firm’s background in both lobbying and Indian gaming equipped it for what became a lead role in the opposition lobby effort.

O’Connor & Hannan was established in 1957, and since the early 1960s, the firm was closely associated with the Democratic Party. Founding partner Patrick O’Connor played an active role in Hubert Humphrey’s 1960 pursuit of the Democratic presidential nomination, and remained active in the national party into the 1970s. In more recent years, the firm purposefully diversified its lobbying practice by adding well-known Republicans to its ranks, including

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<sup>133</sup>*Id.* at 37.